

Appl. No. 09/708,923
Reply to Office Action of Dec. 23, 2003
Docket No. TRNSV-001C

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this amendment, 1-3, 9 and 16-19 were pending. In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 9 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,443,497 (Venbrux). Claims 16 and 18-19 were rejected on grounds of statutory double patenting over prior United States Patent No. 6,655,386 and claim 17 was rejected *only* under the doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over prior United States Patent No. 6,655,386.

By the present amendment, Applicant has cancelled dependent Claim 17 and has added the substance of the limitations of prior Claim 17 to independent Claim 1. Also, a Terminal Disclaimer is being filed concurrently with this response, thereby overcoming the stated obviousness type double patenting rejection and placing amended independent Claim 1 in condition for allowance.

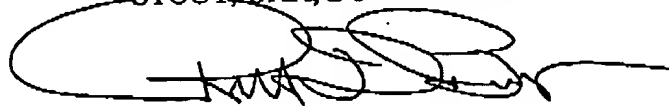
Also by the present amendment, applicant has made minor changes to the language of Claims 1, 8, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 19 to eliminate unnecessary words, clarify the claimed subject matter and to correct dependencies in view of the cancellation of Claim 17.

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On the basis of the foregoing, all claims 1-3, 9, 16 and 18-19 are in condition for allowance.
Issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
STOUT, UXA, BUYAN & MULLINS, LLP

Date: March 23, 2004



Robert D. Buyan, Reg. No. 32,460

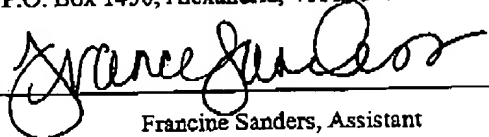
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to (703) 872-9306 to Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 23, 2004.

Dated: March 23, 2004

By:



Francine Sanders, Assistant